

RESERVED

Kearsley Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

1951



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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Councillor R. CROWTHER.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor W. HOLEHOUSE.

Members:

Councillor Mrs. A. M. HOGG, J.P.

„ J. MARTIN, J.P., C.C.

„ S. CURRY.

„ E. HOWARD.

„ W. TAYLOR.

„ J. ECKERSLEY.

„ A. H. WYLD.

„ T. FIELDING.

„ N. A. TATLOCK.

„ T. ROBINSON.

„ J. HOLLINSHEAD.

„ S. A. CHALONER.

„ Mrs. B. E. TAYLOR.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary and Meat Inspector

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F. BROOK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk: Miss J. HALLAM.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1951, on the health of the Urban District, together with the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

The rise in the incidence of measles, which was foreshadowed in the Report of the previous year, occurred in the early months, and there was also an increase in the number of whooping cough cases.

Diphtheria is almost non-existent, and since the combination of diphtheria and whooping cough prophylaxis is now perfected, in years to come, whooping cough will, no doubt, become like diphtheria, a rare disease.

The deposit of atmospheric grit is still a problem in the area, that has the attention of the industry concerned. There is no doubt that atmospheric pollution in the Urban District compares unfavourably with other districts of a comparable industrial nature, and until great improvement takes place the matter will be one of concern to the community.

The shortage of materials and labour have greatly affected the speed with which house repairs are carried out. The housing shortage and the limitation of building is still a serious hindrance to the progressive policy of better homes, which has been a feature of the Urban District Council.

I am indebted for the help and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and for the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA—1,720 statute acres (approx.).

POPULATION—Estimated, June, 1951—10,650.

Census, April, 1951—10,675.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

					TOTAL	Males	Females
Births:							
	Legitimate	...	...	...	154	78	76
	Illegitimate		...	...	6	3	3

Still-Births:							
	Legitimate	...	...	...	2	1	1
	Illegitimate		...	...	1	1	Nil

					Kearsley	England & Wales
	Birth rate per 1,000 population	...		15.0		15.5
	Still Births per 1,000 total births...			18.0		—
	Still Births per 1,000 population	...		0.281		0.36

					TOTAL	Males	Females
Deaths	.....				172	95	77

					Kearsley	England & Wales
	Death rate per 1,000 population	...		16.2		12.5

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

					TOTAL	Males	Females
	Legitimate	...	...	...	3	2	1
	Illegitimate		...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil

					Kearsley	England & Wales
	Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	19.0		29.6

					TOTAL	Males	Females
--	--	--	--	--	-------	-------	---------

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

	Legitimate	...	...	...	2	2	Nil
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil

											TOTAL
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1951.

Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Respiratory tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
TOTAL										...	172

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1951:—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Scarlet Fever	17
Whooping Cough	98
Dysentery	12

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cases removed to hospital from the district:—								
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis—Cases notified:—								
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

FOOD POISONING.

During the year there were no cases of food poisoning reported.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

There were no cases of Acute Poliomyelitis reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, six of which were nursed at home. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

For the fifth year in succession there were no cases of diphtheria to record.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council, free of charge, to general practitioners for patients residing within the district. A supply has been available in 10,000 units for therapeutic uses. During the year none was requested.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The deposit of grit has for some years been an annoyance and a nuisance in some parts of the Urban District, particularly in the Stone-clough area.

This atmospheric pollution was investigated on behalf of the British Electricity Authority by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, with the co-operation of the Kearsley Health Department.

The figures for the twelve months ended October, 1951, are given below:—

KEARSLEY ROAD	...	...	187.5 tons per sq. mile per year.						
MANCHESTER ROAD	...	...	284.5	„	„	„	„	„	„
MARKET STREET	...	...	382.1	„	„	„	„	„	„
SCHOOL SITE	...	...	654.9	„	„	„	„	„	„
VICARAGE SITE	...	...	505.5	„	„	„	„	„	„
WEIR SITE	...	...	568.1	„	„	„	„	„	„

A Deputation from the Kearsley Council met and discussed the problem with representatives of the B.E.A. at the Power Station, Stoneclough, and as a result of these discussions it is hoped that the deposit of grit in the area will be reduced to a tolerable quantity.

WATER SUPPLY.

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are 4 houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant's Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department, and Irwell Valley Water Board:—

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water	143	—
Results	Satisfactory	—
No. of chemical analyses	36	—
Results	Satisfactory	—
Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—		
No. of bacteriological examinations	144	135
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
No. of chemical analyses	36	30
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination	Action not necessary	All water chlorinated at source
Liability to plumbo-solvent action	No	Yes
Analyses for plumbo-solvent action	—	135
Results	—	Mainly Satisfactory

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(1)	By the local authority	40
(2)	By other local authorities	—
(3)	By other bodies or persons	6

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	67
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	67
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices: Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 40

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
	(a)	By owners	—
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	—

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	6
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	6
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	34
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	13

5. Housing Act, 1949:—

		Schemes of Private Bodies or Individuals.	Schemes of Local Authority
(a)	(i) Number of Schemes submitted,		
	(a) By private individuals to local authority	—	—
	(b) By local authority to Ministry	—	—
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected ...	—	—
(b)	(i) Number of Schemes approved by Ministry	—	—
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected ...	—	—
	(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these Schemes	—	—
(c)	Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	—	—
(d)	Any other action taken:— Eleven houses voluntarily closed by the owners at the request of the Council.		

6. Housing Conditions:—

Approximately 41 per cent. of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 19 per cent. as medium, and 40 per cent. as modern.

There are approximately 320 families in lodgings, which still require housing.

Particulars of any housing scheme:—

(i) In hand at end of year:—

Erection of twelve cottage flats and eighteen two-bedroomed type houses.

(ii) Contemplated:—

Erection of twenty three-bedroomed type houses and forty two-bedroomed type houses.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

NOTICES.

Fifty preliminary notices and six statutory notices were served during year.

HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING.

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year.

Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	175,030
Pails	...	...	...	...	...	254
Total loads removed	...	...	...	...	...	2,092

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method of tipping continues to be most satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows:—

Fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	...	3,637
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	73
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	3,500
Pails	...	...	...	...	...	7
Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	4
Privy closets	...	...	...	...	...	4

Four waste water closets have been converted to fresh water closets.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with:—

<i>Sewage Works.</i>	<i>Method of Treatment.</i>
Clammerclough 	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley 	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee 	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tanks and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic electric ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The dairies and cowsheds have been inspected on twenty-four occasions, and their conditions were satisfactory.

During the year, twenty-four samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for tubercle bacilli examination. The results of the examinations showed that all the samples were negative.

ICE-CREAM.

Three premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream.

Twenty-one samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for bacteriological examination. Two of the samples were unsatisfactory, but further samples were taken, and the results were then satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year, the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners:—

72½ lbs. Boiled Ham.
7 lbs. Cheese.
1—10 lb. Turkey.
1—8½ lb. Tin Mincemeat.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

A total of seventy-two samples was taken during the year, fifty-four being of milk and the eighteen other comprising:—

2 Butter.	1 Mincemeat.
2 Cooking fat.	1 Mustard compound.
2 Ice-cream.	3 Tea.
1 Camphorated Oil.	1 Bread, white.
2 Veganin Tablets.	1 Bread, brown.
2 Castor Oil.	

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

<i>Samples</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1 Informal Milk ...	Deficient 3.3 per cent. fat ... low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified
1 Ice-Cream ...	Deficient of 20 per cent. milk ... solids-not-fat.	Vendor cautioned.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND BAKEHOUSES.

During the year, thirty-five visits were paid to factories and work-places, and forty-one visits to bakehouses.

The inspections included visits to furniture manufacturers, confectionery manufacturers, motor body builders and garages.

The premises were in a satisfactory condition.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Four houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, and these were disinfested by the use of insecticide.

RODENT CONTROL.

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year, and both sides of the river bank and one hundred and seventy-eight premises in the Urban District have been disinfested.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

1st JANUARY, 1951 TO 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

Visits to Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ „ Property under Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	288
„ „ Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
„ „ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in progress	66
General Visits—no nuisances	965
								<hr/> 1,577 <hr/>

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